



EFICEEC News

This is the EFICEEC News, an electronic newsletter devoted to the EFICEEC network. The intent is to provide up-to-date information every second month and call attention to our

latest news and accomplishments. EFICEEC News will be distributed via email as well as posted on the EFICEEC website: www.eficeec.efi.int.

COST Action FACESMAP Approved

Our joint COST Action proposal "Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy (FACESMAP)" is officially approved. This success is thanks to all the contributions to the proposal development from the partners! The reasons for the good reception of the proposal include that the topic was seen as timely and relevant - from the side of practice and policy. An important strength was also the broad interest from researchers from many countries.

The first meeting of the Management Committee MC is foreseen to take place in Brussels in November 2012. The precondition for participation is the nomination as MC member or Working

Group participant by the COST National Coordinators (CNC). Non-COST countries will be able to participate but would not take part in the opening meeting in November.

The Working Groups in the COST Action include: forest owner types, forest management and policy. The COST Action will be an important **opportunity for EFICEEC partners to meet and work together regularly**. The EFICEEC partner meetings will probably be connected back-to-back to the COST Action meetings, if appropriate.

For more details about FACESMAP you can contact Gerhard Weiss (gerhard.weiss@boku.ac.at).

EFICEEC and EFISEE in exploratory phase

The EFI Board has decided to have an exploratory phase of a joint Regional Office EFICEEC-EFISEE until the end of 2013. In this interim period, the functioning of the joint offices and the collaboration is tested and developed. During the interim period, EFI should prepare, through broad consultation, a clear plan on how to proceed in the second phase of Regional Offices (2014-2018).

The EFISEE Office is located in Varazdin, Croatia, and will be managed by Marko Lovric. EFISEE

builds on a broad network of partners in the region and will seek synergies with the FOPER project. Bernhard Wolfslehner will be Head of the Joint Office for the interim period.

As regards EFICEEC, the further procedure and any constitutional changes will be negotiated and reconciled with the EFICEEC Core Partner Assembly.

Mid-term Evaluation of EFICEEC

Two years after its launch, EFICEEC is currently undergoing its mid-term review coordinated by the EFI Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The evaluation team, led by Prof. Bas Arts, Wageningen University, proposed a catalogue of 16 criteria, based on which the performance of EFICEEC will be assessed and recommendation

for our future work will be elaborated. First discussions and drafts indicate positive trends in many areas. The full report will be presented at the Scientific Advisory Board meeting (SAB) in Istanbul, October 2012, for further consultation, and in the next EFICEEC Partner Meeting in autumn 2012.





THINKFOREST Study

A team of international experts in forest policy and law is currently preparing the first ThinkForest study on “Forest Governance in Europe: issues at stake and ways forward”.

The study will provide a) structured information on the current policy environment affecting European forests and the forest-based sector and b) discuss and analyse new policy approaches and institutional innovations for improved forest policy cohesion and effectiveness in Europe.

The study is coordinated by the EFICEEC Regional Office in Vienna in close cooperation with the EFIMED Regional Office in Barcelona.

A discussion paper and a comprehensive policy brief are expected to be published in spring next year. They will then be presented during a series of events in 2013.

For more details about ThinkForest you can contact Helga Pülzl (helga.puelzl@efi.int) or visit the webpage: www.thinkforest.efi.int.

The EU Erasmus Socrates Intensive Course INNO-NATOUR

The EU Erasmus Socrates Intensive Course INNO-NATOUR on “Innovation in Nature Based Tourism Services” was successfully organized three times by Carmen Nastase, “Stefan cel Mare” University of Suceava, in Romania. The lectures by the international team which took place at Suceava University were quite intense, and the excursions in the Bukovina region very interesting

– and so was the very practice-oriented work with local enterprises. The students from **Finland, Slovakia, Austria, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania** evaluated the course, and gave it the best grades.

For more details about the Intensive Course INNO-NATOUR please visit their website: www.innonatour.usv.ro.

CASTLE to be launched in November 2012!

A proposal for a Marie Curie Initial Training Network entitled “**Careers in Sustainability Excellence**” (CASTLE) has been successfully evaluated and is expected to start in November 2012. So far, academic training insufficiently reflected the relevance of sustainability impact assessment in business and policy making. CASTLE closes this gap as it combines scientific innovative problem-oriented research and practical training of young academics on methods used for sustainability impact assessments in the bio-energy and forest-based sector in Europe.

CASTLE educates sustainability experts for the broader bio-based economy. The scientific programme of CASTLE refines and improves the state-of-the-art of sustainability assessment

methods and applies them to current sustainability challenges in industry and policy making.

The consortium is led by EFI, and contains from the EFICEEC region the Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (BOKU) and the Universität Klagenfurt (UNI-KLU) as full partners, and as associate partners Joanneum Research Forschungs-GmbH from Austria and the Institute of Forest Ecosystem Research from the Czech Republic. The CASTLE ITN **will recruit 14 PhD students** hosted by the partners.

More information:

Dr. Marcus Lindner (marcus.lindner@efi.int) & Tommi Suominen (tommi.suominen@efi.int) (EFI HQ).





Master's Thesis on Forest Fires with EFICEEC and BOKU Vienna

A master's thesis analysing the forest fire situation in Central-Eastern Europe (CEE) has recently been submitted by **Mr. Jaspar Albers** at BOKU Vienna. The work was supervised by Prof. Harald Vacik from the Institute of Silviculture at the Department of Forest- and Soil Sciences and Dr. Bernhard Wolfslehner from EFICEEC. Topics such as rising impacts of forest fires, changing forest ownership structures and fragmentation were covered by the thesis. The study's main focus was on six countries: Belarus, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. Due to the conversion of coniferous monocultures, more sophisticated fire fighting techniques but also the varying influences of climatic changes, no uniform development of fires in number or area could be assessed. Especially regions with

neglected fuel management were recognized as threatened, for example the radioactively contaminated zones near Chernobyl in Ukraine and Belarus. Rural abandonment was identified as the most important socio-economic driver of wildfires, with the additional problem of fragmented private forests, e.g. in Romania. Mr. Albers graduated with a double degree in the Master of Science programme European Forestry (MScEF) from BOKU and the University of Eastern Finland.

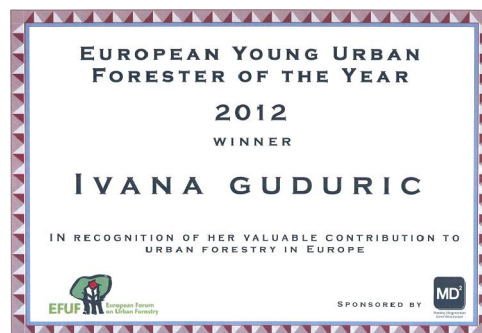
For more details about the master's thesis you can contact Mr. Jaspar Albers (jalbers83@gmail.com) or find the PDF version of the thesis on the BOKU website: www.zidapps.boku.ac.at/abstracts.

Award for European Young Urban Forester of the Year 2012

The first competition for European Young Urban forester of the Year took place this year in Leipzig during the European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF), 8-12 May. The goal of the competition is to recognize outstanding young persons working in the field of urban forestry. The winner was **Ivana Guduric**, a European Forestry master's student from Belgrade (Serbia). She graduated in 2008 from the Landscape Architecture Department in Belgrade. Her diploma thesis, "Comparative analysis of management of urban forestry in Belgrade and Freiburg", was awarded the best graduation thesis of Belgrade University by Belgrade Chamber of Commerce in 2009. Besides this, Ivana has taken part in several

projects and activities related to urban forest/ry in recent years.

Currently Ivana studies at BOKU University in Vienna and works as an intern at the EFICEEC office.



Upcoming meetings and conferences

- RoK-FOR Final Conference: Green Growth from Forests; 4 December 2012, Brussels, Belgium.
- 45th International Symposium on Forestry Mechanisation (FORMEC); 8-12 October 2012, Dubrovnik (Cavtat), Croatia.

- EFI Annual Conference 2012; 3-5 October, Istanbul, Turkey.
- Training School "Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Forest Management"; 16-21 September 2012, BOKU University, Vienna, Austria.

